

House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

Child Restraint Bill Passes House



HARTFORD- Representative David Scribner (R-Brookfield) today hailed the passage of legislation he cosponsored which would mandate the use of child restraint systems in cars for children, depending on both the age and weight of the child.

Substitute House Bill 6660, *An Act Concerning Child Restraint Systems* would require children under six years old and weighing less than 60 pounds to use approved car restraint systems, children under one year old or weighing less than 20 pounds to use rear-facing car restraint system and children in booster seats to be secured by seat safety belts with shoulder belts. As Ranking Member on the legislature's Transportation Committee, Representative Scribner helped steer the bill to its passage in the House.

"The problem of not properly restraining a child is very prevalent, and is the cause of a number of significant and unnecessary injuries" said **Representative Scribner**, "When a child outgrows a safety seat, they need a belt positioning booster seat to be properly situated in a car seat for the belt restraint to adequately protect them. When a child gets to be over 60 lbs. they can fit into an adult car seat more properly."

Scribner noted that according to several credible studies, children in this weight and age gap are at an elevated risk to injury when they are improperly restrained in an adult car seat. Adult lap belts will ride up into the abdominal area, and shoulder belts will cut into the neck of a child so restrained in a serious car accident. This makes these safety devices more likely to cause injury in an accident than prevent it.

The bill will now move to the state Senate for action there.